

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 IO-13 /097 W

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R 211130 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8497

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 3364

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PGOV EFIN LI

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT FINANCE SIRLEAF RESIGNS

REF: RUSHING TO YATES LATTER MAY 11

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: STORY IN JUNE 15 LIBERIAN STAR ANNOUNCED " UNDERSTANDING" THAT ELLEN JOHNSON- SIRLEAF RESIGNED AS ASSISTANT MINISTER OF FINANCE FOR FISCAL AFFAIRS. STAR SAID SHE INFORMED AUTHORITIES SHE LEAVING GOVERNMENT SERVICE MAINLY FOR " ECONOMIC REASON". END UNCLASSIFIED

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: AS NOTED IN REF, MRS. SIRLEAF' S RESIGNATION WAS ANTICIPATED. PRESENT TEL REPORTING IT SOMEWHAT DELAYED PENDING EMBOFF CONVERSATION WITH HER TO SEEK FURTHER DETAILS. SHE TOLD LATTER JUNE 18 (MEMO POUCHED) THAT " ECONOMIC REASONS" HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH HER DECISION TO RESIGN AND THAT HER PRIMARY REASONS WERE FRUSTRATION WITH THE GOL BUREAUCRACY AND PERSONAL DIFFERENCES WITH HER BOSS, GOL FINMIN STEPHEN TOLBERT. MRS. SIRLEAF CONFIRMED THAT SHE HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN HER APPLICATION FOR POSITION WITH THE IBRD AND HOPES TO DEPART FOR WASHINGTON WHEN FINMIN TOLBERT RETURNS TO LIBERIA AND AFTER A " FINAL RENDERING" BY HIM OF HER ACCOUNTS.

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3. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE EMBASSY CONSIDERED MRS. SIRLEAF
PROBABLY THE MOST EFFECTIVE CIVIL SERVANT IN THE GOL. SHE
HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN MAKING THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE A
RELATIVELY EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION. THERE IS NO ONE APPARENT
ON THE HORIZON WHO CAN BEGIN TO TAKE HER PLACE.
GAMON

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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